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Offers to Cooperate Against Terrorism, CIA Director Says  
 By ROBERT G. FICHENBERG

Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — CIA Director William H. Webster says the Soviet intelligence agency, the KGB, has made a rare offer to cooperate with the CIA, suggesting the two organizations work together against terrorism.

"We're looking into the possibilities" of such cooperation, Webster said in a meeting with reporters Thursday.

Webster cited the KGB offer as an example of changes in the Soviet Union, while noting that in other areas the KGB is more aggressive than in the past.

"We do see some signs of glasnost at the edges," he said. "They're testing the waters of cooperation, and one example is that the KGB has suggested that we might do something together on terrorism."

"At the same time, the KGB is more aggressive but less confrontational. They're not seeking situations that advertise their activities, but they're everywhere, and the total effect is aggressive and unremitting."

The CIA director said the KGB is a potential source of trouble for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev if Gorbachev's policies fail, but there have been no signs yet that the KGB is preparing to take sides between Gorbachev and his critics.

While refusing to discuss the accuracy of press reports that the Soviets have sold Libya high-performance bombers that would enhance its ability to strike Middle East targets including Israel, Webster said such a development "would create a strategic advantage for Libya in that part of the world and there's every indication that this is the direction in which (Libyan leader) Moammar Gadhafi is going."

"It's reasonably clear that the Libyans intend to have a substantial chemical warfare capability," he added.

On other subjects, Webster said:

Although 25 percent to 35 percent of terrorism targets worldwide are American, U.S. intelligence agencies have succeeded in preventing any major terrorist act within the United States over the last year. "You wouldn't believe the number of terrorist threats that come in."

The "suicide for glory" ethic seems to fade the farther terrorists operate from their home country. For example, he said, there is no evidence the terrorist who planted the bomb on Pan Am Flight 103 was aboard when the plane exploded over Scotland.

Regardless of how long Gorbachev remains in power, the "genie" of glasnost and perestroika appears to be "out of the bottle" not only in the Soviet Union but in Soviet satellite states and will cause problems for later Soviet leaders.

Although the United States has acquired "robust" and

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sophisticated new intelligence capabilities, its challenges have increased proportionately, especially in the fields of chemical and biological warfare, terrorism and monitoring compliance with arms control treaties.

DM END FICHENBERG (Filed by Newhouse News Service, Washington, D.C.)

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